MONTEREY NEWS

June 2019
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 6

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season), Swap Shop

Maureen Banner

The council on aging held a luncheon to honor some of our "super seniors." See page 8.

This introductory one-day workshop is for writers who've wanted to get stories from their lives on paper, but haven't known how to begin.
Speak Memory page 12

The day after the election, I went to work at 9 a.m. for my first select board meeting, and I knew almost immediately that I would thoroughly enjoy working with Carol and Kenn.
In My View page 6

Hear ye, Hear ye… The Monterey Farmers Market returns for its third season starting Tuesday, June 5.
Monterey Farmers Market page 16

Monterey will now have a collection box where you may retire your unserviceable American, state, or POW flags of any size for proper disposal.
Dignified Flag Disposal page 8

Bear Feeders and Wildlife page 24–26

Arrayed on a large shelf, was a display of hair dryers from various manufacturers—twenty-seven distinct devices. I recounted just to make sure; yup—twenty-seven hair dryers.
Your Choice page 28

A dozen to my being here could swear—
And yet the best of me has been away.
Absent! page 17

Eugene Bounous said that the grass in front of his property had not been mowed in thirty years and he was "getting too damned old to do it" anymore.

Law and order was quickly restored.

The article passed by a voice vote and the canines of Monterey rejoiced.
Annual Town Meeting page 2 to 5

In May, New England Aquatic Services, LLC commenced the first phase of Lake Garfield's 2018 milfoil removal project.
Lake Garfield Spring Report page 11

The cultural council is a vital part of our community and if we can't find folks to join, we may not be able to continue with the committee.
Monterey Cultural Council page 13

A public, spirited, and open discussion is encouraged.
Marijuana Operations page 9

Do you think there is something wrong with construction projects using state funds?
Bridges-The Saga Continues page 7

You will notice that flowers have been planted in various pots and containers around your town.
Monterey Green Up page 5

This is the first true breaking of ground for the project.
Library News page 10

Annual Town Meeting

Getting Going

The gavel sounded at precisely 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, May 5, as Mark Makuc opened his thirty-fourth town meeting as moderator. Town clerk, Terri Walker, read the introductory paragraph on the warrant to the sixty-five attendees, and as usual, a motion was made to dispense with the reading of the entire thing. The moderator acknowledged the presence of a new technology called CART (Communication Access Real Time Translation) which replaced the previous assisted-hearing devices and allows the deaf and hard of hearing to immediately read the spoken words on a screen at the front of the room. For those without a hearing loss, the CART system also provided a way for attendees to double check what had just been said if they were unclear about it or just became distracted for a moment. In what Mark Makuc referred to as an "acoustically challenged venue," this technology was very helpful.

Prior to reviewing the articles on the warrant, a moment of silence was held for those Monterey citizens who had contributed to the town and had passed away since last year. This included Alf Pedersen, Jane Black, Joan Brown, Ted Warner, Leonard Weber, and Ed Dunlop.

Procedural Articles

Then the business of the meeting began. Article 1 involved hearing and acting on the reports of all Officers, Agents and Committees of the Town. Since the town report was available at the meeting for anyone who was interested, no action was required. Article 2 was about fixing the salaries of various town officials and passed unanimously by voice vote. Article 3 concerned the use of revolving funds for departmental operations. Select board member Steve Weisz made a motion to table this article and to vote on it at a special town meeting at the end of June.

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A voice vote was taken and with one dissenting vote, the citizens were asked to vote again with their green index cards. With the vote of 45 in favor and 1 not in favor, the article was tabled.

Administrator Expenses

Article 4 was all about the budget. Each line item was read and holds were placed for items of concern. Then each item with a hold was up for discussion. The first one concerned an allocation for Administrative Assistant Expenses. Kenn Basler asked for the wording of this line item to be changed to Administrative Assistant Procurement Training and Expenses, to clarify its purpose. This was approved by the voters. The next hold had to do with Town Administrator Expenses. Select board member Carol Edelman explained that the town had previously hired an administrator and it just didn't work out. She said that since that time, there has been increased stability, transparency, and accountability in the town offices, and there does not seem to be a need at this point for a town administrator. Therefore, the allocated salary and expenses could be reduced to zero. This proposal generated a bit of discussion. Stanley Ross suggested that the line item be left open and a sum of $1 be allocated to it. Lisa Smyle reminded the audience that the town had overwhelmingly voted to have a town administrator at a previous town meeting and referred to a state report that recommended a town administrator for Monterey. She indicated that while town employees may change, the structure of town government should not. Steve Weisz replied that there is currently a good team in place, things are getting done and there is no longer any "toxicity" in town hall. However, he agreed that the line item should remain open. Pat Salomon commented that the town needs to decide if a town administrator is really needed and to determine what is best for Monterey. Eileen Marcus said that it is hard to put an item back in the budget once it is out and that it should be left as is but not be spent. Susan Cooper, who was on the hiring committee for the town administrator, discussed the difficulty in finding a qualified person for the part time position. She also noted that, "There is a difference between getting by without and not needing" a town administrator, and voiced the opinion that it would be a mistake to take this out of the budget. Kenn Basler recounted how the town had gone through six positions for town clerk, treasurer and accountant in two years. Now, he told the assembly, there is a professional finance team in place as well as a stable town clerk and what had been an incredibly bad situation has now been turned around. His suggestion was to "give us another year" and then evaluate the situation. While a town administrator may be needed in the future, at this period of time he felt it was not necessary. George Cain offered the opinion that as a town we should manage our expenses and spend only the money we need. A few other comments were made before Maureen Banner made a motion to call the question. Since there was one dissenting voice vote, green cards were again used to vote and with a count of 49–6, a motion to end the discussion was passed. Then a vote was taken to change the line item amount to $1 and this passed 43–13. The expenses for the Town Administrator were also reduced to $1 by voice vote.

Budget Item Holds

Other holds on the budget were then discussed. Kenn Basler made a motion to change the line item for tax title legal services from $0 to $1500 on the advice of the town accountant and Mari Makuc, Monterey Tax Collector, and this was passed. There was a question as to why the tree warden expenses were going up

by $6,000 and since the tree warden was not present, Shawn Tryon, director of operations, explained that in the past there had been some problems with the bidding process and this was a way to resolve the situation. George Cain asked that the line item for the Visiting Nurse be lowered to $2,184 since this organization would no longer be providing flu shots. The discussion of a hold on library wages was preceded by comment from Mark Makuc. Since Makuc is the library director as well as the town moderator, he asked if anyone had a problem with him not stepping down for this portion of the meeting. No one did, and then Mickey Jervas asked for an amendment to increase library wages from $36,800 to $38,070 due to increased time needed for staff. This passed without discussion. Kenn Basler asked for the $0 line item for the Community Center to be restored to $8,000. The plan is to pay for the upkeep of the community center from the revolving funds from the rental of Bally Gally, but just in case there is not a special town meeting in June, he wanted to ensure that the community center would be funded. This also passed without comment. The last budget-related item was a request from Kenn Basler to change the Community Septic Loan Program line item from $4,898 to $0 and to transfer the funds from the Stabilization Loan Septic Reserve fund. This was also passed. Since there were no more holds on the budget line items, the moderator was ready to pass the budget as amended, but Kenn Basler asked for one more hold. Makuc said that this was the first time in thirty years that someone had asked for a hold after the budget had been read. He asked if the town needed more money and when told it did not, he denied the additional hold and moved on to the next item on the warrant.

Loader and Mower Attachment

Article 5 asked the town to purchase a loader with a boom mower attachment and to trade in or sell the current loader. Kenn Basler asked that, instead of borrowing the funds, the article be amended to read that the sum of $181,700 will be transferred from free cash. In an addendum to the town warrant, distributed at the meeting, it was explained that the town had recently been notified that the free cash account was

This photo, by Maureen Banner, was taken at last year's town meeting. There were no other photos sent to the paper from the meeting. No doubt, there were plenty of smart phones there.

$338,342 more than originally estimated. Therefore, several proposals on the warrant, including this one, were going to be changed from raising and appropriating and/or borrowing funds to using free cash. Since free cash is money that the residents have already been taxed on, this would eliminate some major expenditures in the budget. There was some discussion about this with concerns from Stanley Ross as to whether there would be sufficient funds left in free cash. George Cain felt that the remaining $45,000 would be sufficient. There was also some discussion about whether or not it would be better to borrow the funds, but Kenn Basler said that rising interest rates did not make this a desirable option. Some more discussion followed including an amusing complaint from Eugene Bounous that the grass in front of his property had not been mowed in thirty years and he was "getting too damned old to do it" anymore. He was assured by Shawn Tryon that this piece of equipment would take care of that problem and was guaranteed that it would be done hereafter. A 2/3 vote was required and the amendment and the article both passed by voice vote.

Curtis Road Bridge Repair

Articles 6, 7, and 8 all had to do with repairs to the Curtis Road bridge, and Susan Cooper asked for an explanation as to how they were linked. The short version of the discussion was that the bridge needs to be repaired this year and that the money is being appropriated from different sources including the Bridges, Roads and Culverts Stabilization Fund as well as $100,000 being transferred from free cash. All three articles were passed.

Fire Hose and Stabilization Fund

Article 9 asked for an appropriation of $20,000 for a new fire hose, and Kenn Basler once again asked to have this article amended so that instead of appropriating

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the funds, they would be transferred from free cash. The amendment and article both passed. Article 10 also was amended to read "raise and appropriate the sum of $75,000" and to strike out "from Free Cash" for the Stabilization Fund. The amendment and article passed.

Lawlessness Breaks Out

At this point, the audience seemed to be taking the discussions into their own hands without following Robert's Rules of Order. Moderator Makuc had to remind the audience that he is in charge of directing the discussion, saying " I've been doing this for thirty years." Law and order was quickly restored.

Miscellaneous Expenses

Articles 11, 12, 13, and 14 generated no discussion and were passed as written. These included appropriations for Retiree Health and Life Insurance, funding for the CART professional for the town meeting, and for a Government Accounting Standards Board study.

School Building Expenses

Article 16 was about the Monterey School and, for the first time in recent years, there was no heated discussion about it. The article proposed transferring $8,900 from the Monterey School Repairs account to a new account entitled Monterey School Expenses, which cover the costs of electricity, heat, mowing, and other maintenance items for the now defunct school. The article passed without a murmur. Article 16 was also quickly passed and this provided an amendment to the town bylaws to establish an all-boards meeting at least once a year.

Dogs at Town Parks

One of the more interesting moments of the town meeting was Article 17, a citizen petition initiated by Maureen Banner, who proposed an amendment to the town bylaws, which currently excludes dogs from the town beach and park. Her proposal was to change the bylaw to read, "No dogs allowed on the town beach." There were several comments from residents who wanted to make sure that dogs would still be under owner's control and that anything they deposited on the park would be picked up, but Makuc reined in the discussion noting that, "We're just dealing with what is on the warrant." The article passed by a voice vote and the canines of Monterey rejoiced.

Boards & Commissions Authority

Back to the more mundane issues of town government, Articles 18, 19, and 20 quickly passed, allowing the select board to apply for and use grant money, authorizing commissions and boards to appoint members to any office, and allowing the treasurer to use funds or to borrow money for Highway Capital Funds. Article 21 had to do with new state regulations regarding revolving funds. This allows the rental income from Bally Gally to be used for the upkeep of the Monterey Community Center and repairs to Bally Gally, with any leftover funds to go in a revolving fund which would have a cap of $50,000. When Bonner McAllester questioned the wording of the article, asking if it could be applied to any facility, Kenn Basler explained that it was written according to the law and the locations in question would be more clearly identified at the special town meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for June.

Maureen Banner

Town employee Kevin Fitzpatrick (and Monterey's new tree warden) installing a dog waste station at the community center a few weeks after the bylaws were changed to permit dogs at town parks.

Town Bylaws

Articles 22, 23, and 24 were pretty routine stuff. They all passed without discussion and allowed the treasurer to borrow money as needed with the approval of the select board, to remove a bylaw pertaining to town meeting warrants, and to authorize any town board to appoint any member to another office or position and to fix a salary for that position.

Article 25 was probably the one that generated the most lively discussion. Its purpose was to amend the Monterey Zoning Bylaws by adding a new section called Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments. Since Massachusetts approved the use, cultivation, and distribution of recreational marijuana in 2016, each town is now faced with trying to regulate just how and where these operations will take place. As stated in the warrant, "The Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of recreational marijuana establishments and address such issues as well as….. the potential impact on local zoning…."

Tom Sawyer, from the planning board, stated that he supports a temporary moratorium since it will give everyone a chance to voice their opinions. Mickey Jervas questioned why the moratorium

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was being proposed for only six months. Town counsel, Jeremia Pollard, said that he was involved in constructing a similar bylaw for Egremont. He said the moratorium could be longer but it might also be struck down by the state's attorney general. Susan Cooper asked if citizens would have a chance to vote on the issue before the amendment expired on December 31. Don Coburn suggested adding as much time as the attorney general would allow, and Jeremia Pollard replied that a specific date was required.

So a motion was made to amend the article and add the date of June 30, 2019. The amendment passed and further discussion ensued. George Cain, a local realtor, said there have already been inquiries about a large parcel of land for sale in Monterey, with the intention of using it for a marijuana business. Planning board member Don Coburn said that there are many issues involved, such as whether the town would allow the manufacture of marijuana but not retail sales. He also brought up the issue of possible supervisory fees.

Counsel Pollard said that a ballot vote would be needed to ban anything because it was already voted into law. However, a limit on the number of facilities is certainly a possibility. He went on to say that there are many issues to consider such as special permits, hosting agreements, and impact fees. The article was passed but a few people still wanted to discuss the issue further. Makuc asked the assembly if they wanted to continue the discussion but a voice vote of "no" put the matter to rest.

An Early Departure

The final article on the warrant was a notification of the election to take place the following Tuesday, May 8, at the fire station. And with that, the meeting was over, ending at 11:47 a.m., much earlier than the town meetings in the past few years. The fact that it was a gorgeous, sunny, and warm spring day, following a seemingly never ending winter, may or may not have played a part in that. The business of the town was done for the day, but clearly several large issues will continue to be worked on in the upcoming months.

—Laurie Shaw

2018 Town Elections

This year's town elections for various offices was left to 143 voters. There was only one seat (Parks Commission for one year) with no candidate, though one person technically won the seat anyway. The tallies below do not include unmarked or blank votes for some offices.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Don Coburn 80
Steven Weisz 60

Planning Board (5 years)
Richard Piepho 50
Scott Jenssen 83

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
Scott Jenssen 114

Board of Assessors (3 years, vote for 2)
Donald Hopkins 114
Julio Rodriquez 119

Board of Health (3 years)
Roy Carwile 116

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Linda Thorpe 122

Finance Committee
Rebecca Wolin 116

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
MaryPaul Yates 112
Ann Canning 109

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc 126

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Peter Poirer 112
Michal Strawbridge115

Parks Commission (1 year)
Scott Jensen, write-in 1

Tree Warden (1 year)
Kevin Fitzpatrick 126

Note: Don Coburn has resigned his planning board seat to focus on his select board responsibilities.

Ballot question

Shall the town be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½ so called, the amount required to pay for the bond(s) issued for the purchase of a loader with boom mower attachment for the highway department?
Yes-107, No-21
Note: At the annual town meeting three days prior to the town elections, the town voted to purchase the loader and attachment with free cash. *See page 3.*

Monterey Green Up

Help Beautify Monterey

You will notice that flowers have been planted in various pots and containers around your town. Pots are located at the town hall, at the community center, at the library, and at the church.

These flowers need regular watering to keep them at their best. Please consider being a helper by taking on this simple responsibility now and throughout the summer.

Ideally, having two or more people working together makes it more fun and easier to keep this beautification project successful.

Please email Susan Cain at susancain9@gmail.com to sign up as a summer volunteer. The flowers will thank you, along with the Monterey Green Up group.

—Susan Cain

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Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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In My View

I'd like to begin this short piece by thanking the voters of Monterey for entrusting me with a share of the governance of our warm and welcoming town.

The day after the election, I went to work at 9 a.m. for my first select board meeting, and I knew almost immediately that I would thoroughly enjoy working with Carol and Kenn. As I continued to meet with the members of other boards, committees, and many of the town employees, I was heartened by their kindness, obvious competence, and sincere dedication to Monterey's best interests. I promise that I will add my best efforts to theirs to maintain and improve Monterey.

Our local form of government demands much of its citizens and of its elected and appointed employees. We are the legislature (at town meetings), and the combination of numerous elected and appointed public servants requires almost constant networking and consultation if all the jobs are to be done well. Needing particular attention are the relations among select board members and their interrelation, together and individually, with the administrative assistant. I am confident that these relations are going well and will continue to do so.

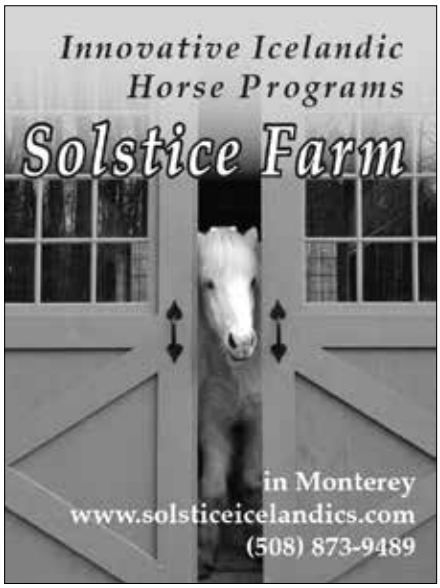
When, many years ago, I was elected to the Livingston, New Jersey, town council, along with two other Democrats, giving our party majority control for the first time in Livingston's history, one of our innovations was creating a "Listening Post." The point was to give citizens an opportunity to bring issues to the attention of the council in an informal setting—a one-on-one conversation with a council member. After I've settled into the job, I would like to offer such opportunities to Monterey homeowners. When I work out the scheduling, I will put a notice in the *Monterey News.* We'll see if this is considered useful by enough people to make it worthwhile. In the meantime, feel free to call me at home (413-528-0627), email me at don@montereyma.gov, or stop me around town if there is some issue that you believe needs attention.

I'd like to leave you with one other idea that might be worthwhile. Almost all of us, I think, truly miss the general store. The Roadside Store used to be open far more often than now. At least until the general store re-opens, wouldn't it be great if the Roadside Store could step in to the void and provide a place where we could meet and eat and get a newspaper more often than the present four days a week?

I find that I cannot close without expressing my deep appreciation for the role played in our town by the *Monterey News*—it is an absolutely critical institution, a community bond that keeps us informed and enriches our efforts to live together in harmony and enjoying our diversity. So, thank you to everyone who has been involved in producing the *Monterey News* for all these years.

—Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*



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The Bridges of Monterey
The Saga Continues.

Last year the town got the unwelcome news that the Curtis Road bridge had been inspected and evaluated by the MA Department of Transportation (DOT) and was found to be wanting. Time and use had taken its toll and the support structure of steel beams was judged not capable of handling the weight it was being subjected too. The proposed downgrading would allow cars and small trucks to cross but would suspend use by our highway trucks, transfer station trucks, delivery trucks to Gould Farm, and salt/sand trucks to the highway department storage facility. What to do?

The DOT estimated the replacement cost would be a little over $1 million, including design.

The select board petitioned the DOT through Berkshire Regional Planning for inclusion on the infamous TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) but the only roads/bridges eligible for this funding are state roads, and Curtis Road is considered a town road. It's also important to note that the average time from inclusion to funding for TIP's projects is five to seven years and the state requires the town to pay for the design work, which in this case would be well over $100,000.

We submitted an application to MassWorks for monies to cover the cost of the project but were, again, faced with years until funding would be available.

We looked at improving Gould Road from the transfer station to River Road which would allow us to divert all truck traffic to River Road. But to cut all the trees, widen it to two lanes, and change the turn at the bottom would cost an estimated $250,000 to $300,000, and the steepness of the road would present a dangerous condition for the trucks in winter.

We asked for a meeting with DOT and the engineering firm that had done the analysis and, with plans in hand, we all climbed down under the bridge. The engineering firm had already done some preliminary work on the feasibility of a repair, and presented a plan that they thought would be cost effective and allow for a return to the prior weight restrictions. They estimated the cost would be in the vicinity of $175,000. With all the above information in hand, the select board decided to repair the bridge, which was viewed as the most cost effective and timely.

Six months ago we contracted with Gill Engineering to provide us with detailed plans for the repair of the Curtis Road bridge. Upon completion of the plans we put the project out for bids through the state bidding office. We were clear in the bid document that final approval for funding would not happen until annual town meeting, but we wanted an accurate cost that we could present to the town. We received four bids, two from local contractors and two from large eastern-based companies. The differences between the local versus the Boston-based companies are instructive, and clearly show the financing problems small towns face with DOT recommended firms. The winning bid was $268,000 from Tryon Construction, a local company. The next was $289,000 from another local company, with the third and fourth bids both coming in at over $450,000. Do you think there is something wrong with construction projects using state funds? Both of the high bidders have multiple state contracts for bridges. It is why Monterey works so hard to push back at exorbitant costs. It's also why we wanted accurate figures to present at town meeting.

We accepted the low bid and work will begin shortly, hopefully to be done during mid-summer. The project involves adding structural steel to the existing steel underneath to strengthen the roadway. As such, we expect only limited minor delays to traffic flow.

Thank you for approving the monies for this project at town meeting.

Although hardly noticed, the Curtis Road bridge is the most important bridge in Monterey. (The Konkapot River crossing in the village is a culvert.)

—Kenn Basler

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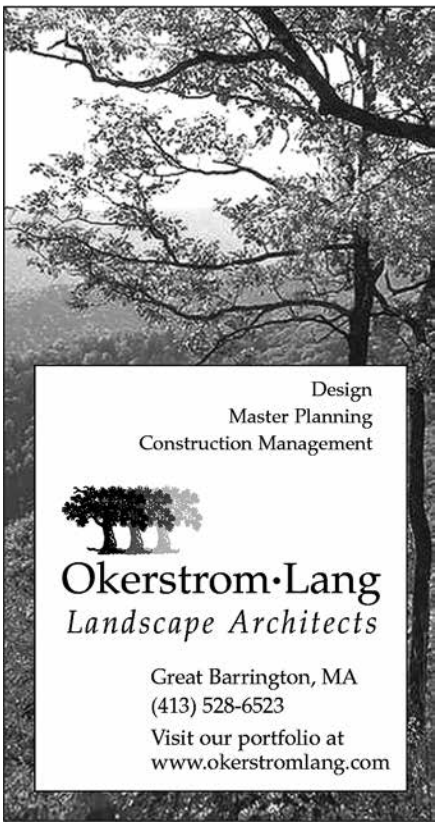

Maureen Banner

Super Seniors Luncheon

A luncheon was held on May 17, at the community center, to celebrate our seniors who were ninety years or older this year. Monterey is home to ten of these super seniors. Only four were able to attend, however. It was over two hours of friendship, laugher, music, and singing (with entertainment provided by Doug Schmolze). Susan Andrus was visiting from Missouri, Jean and Wendy Germain came home from Florida late the night before.

Also invited to the luncheon were individuals who have been very supportive of the council on aging. The affair was sponsored by the Monterey Council on Aging, and supported by the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

Linda Thorpe

Dignified Flag Disposal

Under the United States Flag Code, Section 8 (k), Respect for the Flag: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Monterey will now have a collection box at the transfer station where you may retire your worn-out, unserviceable American, state, or POW flags of any size for proper disposal. Each year I place new flags on the veteran's graves and, with dignity, burn the old ones. I would be pleased to include yours. Officially this ceremony is done on Flag Day, June 14 or July 2, but can be done at other times as well.

I ask only that they be folded in some manner before being placed in the box. Thank you.

—Linda Thorpe

Council on Aging
Baseball Picnic, July 8

Come watch the Pittsfield Suns at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield on Sunday, July 8, at 5 p.m., for the start—earlier if you want to throw out a pitch before the game. This is our fourth year attending, and by popular request, our seats will be under the tent near first base. That provides a better opportunity to visit with each other. The picnic includes grilled chicken, franks, hamburgers, pasta salad, tomato, lettuce, condiments, iced tea, water, and brownies. Please let me know if you are coming by calling me at 413-528-9151. A donation of $5 per person is asked for. This is a family event, so all ages are welcome.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

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Bobby Sweet

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.
Mass Cultural Council

Marijuana Operations
Planning Board Questionnaire

Now that the annual town meeting is over, the planning board has been charged with the task of determining whether or not the town should move forward with the creation of a set of bylaws governing marijuana operations. A moratorium was voted upon and approved, giving the board some breathing room, but it is critically important that the voice of Monterey's residents be heard by the planning board so that opinions, whether they be from full time or seasonal voices, may influence the direction the board takes. Several Berkshire County towns have already moved forward allowing for either retailing and or wholesale growing of marijuana. Monterey is unique in part because of our size and location. But that should not cloud the issue. By right, Massachusetts General Law (MGL) allows local residents twenty-one years old or older to grow up to six plants for their recreational use. The planning board cannot deny that right. We may, however, create bylaws that control the retail sale or wholesale greenhouse operations. For example, below are sample bylaws adopted in Williamstown, MA.

Marijuana Production Facility
An entity licensed by the Cannabis Control Commission or having received a final certificate of registration from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to cultivate and/or obtain, manufacture, process and package marijuana and marijuana products, to deliver marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana retail establishments and to transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana retail establishments, but not to consumers, in accordance with applicable Massachusetts General Laws.

Marijuana Retail
An establishment licensed by the Cannabis Control Commission or having received a final certificate of registration from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to purchase and deliver marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana production facilities and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana retail establishments and consumers, for recreational or medicinal means in accordance with applicable Massachusetts General Laws and state regulations.

Massachusetts General Law prevails. (For MGL text, search for General Laws, Part 1, Title XV, Chapter 94G, "Regulation of the use and distribution of marijuana not medically prescribed.") It is entirely within our town's right to do nothing and simply allow for the state's regulations to rule. But we may require a candidate business to sign a "Host Community Agreement for any Retail or Production Establishment Operating in the Town." The host agreement will ensure that the entity intends to pay all local taxes attributable to its operation, including sales taxes and real estate taxes on the space within which the establishment is located. A host agreement goes on to ensure that community impact issues and community support obligations are addressed as well. I am just presenting options. They do not represent the current position of the planning board.

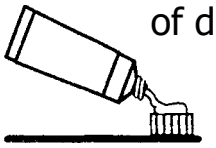
A public, spirited, and open discussion is encouraged. The planning board meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the town hall. All residents are encouraged to attend a meeting or several meetings to voice concerns and opinions. Agendas are available on the town website, or by subscribing to the town's News and Announcements emails.

The planning board is currently looking into the process of creating a questionnaire that will be mailed to each household covering some of the issues that would benefit from input. Please take it seriously. Respond to the questionnaire, and return it in person to Melissa Noe, administrative secretary, at town hall, or mail it to the Monterey Planning Board, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA.

—Larry Klein
Monterey Planning Board

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



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Library News
Gould Farm Helps the Library

This month we are going to give a huge shout out to Gould Farm. To comply with the regulations regarding the library project within two hundred feet of the Konkapot River, we had to show site improvement and mitigation to compensate for disturbing the river bank. The Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act permits offsetting project impacts by making improvements and mitigation efforts to other wetland areas. We approached Gould Farm and asked if they would be willing to allow our off-site compensation to be in their hayfield along the bank of the Konkapot. They agreed, and by doing so, they have made the library project possible. This involves turning over twenty thousand square feet (approximately half an acre) of hayfield back into natural river bank. That area has been identified as turtle habitat and will now be left undisturbed.

Between Gould Farm, the library, and the conservation commission, we have agreed to plant part of the field, located at the corner of Route 23 and Curtis Road, with native plants. The farm will not mow this anymore and it will return to its original wild state. The Monterey Preservation Land Trust also deserves a thank-you as they hold a conservation restriction on that land which was donated to the farm many years ago by Shel Fenn. The land trust supported our plan and gave their permission.

That means our first shovel will go into the ground for thelibrary project in June. This isn't our ground-breaking party—but it is something we have to do before we start the project at the library site.

On Saturday, June 9, we will be planting one hundred native species in this area. We are looking for volunteers to help plant these three-to four-foot tall shrubs, starting at 9 a.m. We would like to know how many helpers we can plan on, so please let us know if you would like to help by sending your name to montereylibrary@gmail.com, or calling 413-528-3795. Some of the work will be digging, but there will be light work as well as carrying and laying out the plants. If anyone with a pickup truck would like to make the trip to the nursery in Amherst to pick up the plants the day before please let us know. Please dress appropriately for a hopefully sunny area that will probably have bugs and ticks. If you have a good shovel that would be helpful.

In other good news from the state, we have been moving along well enough that they decided to speed up the payments and we will be getting our second payment early, and will be fully awarded in four years instead of five. That will save the town interest on the loan.

Finally, we are still open for business so mark your calendars for the first Saturday in July when magician Jim Snack will perform at the library. We have three more shows for children of all ages following Jim, so don't forget to stop by the library at 10:30 Saturday mornings in July and the first Saturday in August.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan

Monterey residents are invited to review and comment on the results of the Monterey Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness outreach and planning effort, on display at town hall, beginning on June 5, at 6 p.m.

The town has been working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to identify the top natural hazards (flood, drought, fire, severe weather, etc.) that pose a threat to life and property, and to develop a prioritized plan for minimizing or addressing those threats, over the short- and long-term. Creating a municipal vulnerability preparedness plan is required by the state, so the town is eligible to apply for funding to implement the hazard mitigation measures.

Public review and comment forms will be available at town hall in the display area.

—Dennis Lynch
Monterey Grant Writer

On May 29, National Grid put in two new utility poles to prepare for the upcomimg library project. Sorry for any inconvenience, and for those times in the future when there will be interruptions in the traffic flow. This is the first true breaking of ground for the project. *—Mark Makuc*

Lake Garfield Spring Report
Milfoil Removal Project

On May 1, 2018 New England Aquatic Services, LLC commenced the first phase of Lake Garfield's 2018 milfoil removal project. The focus of this phase of the project was to remove several patches of Eurasian milfoil to prevent them from becoming larger, more significant patches in the future. The end results of the project are that approximately 1.95 acres of dense plant growth were removed in addition to numerous other small patches and individual growth areas, which totaled 154 bags (each bag holds approximately the equivalent of a five-gallon bucket) of plant material being removed from the lake.

Three main areas of the lake were focused on which, for the purposes of discussion, will be referred to in this report as the "Northern Swath," which is the northern swath of the big bowl of the lake; the "Eastern Patch," which is a sizeable patch identified on the eastern shore of the big bowl of the lake; and the "Big Rock," which is an area around the large boulder located on the western shore of the big bowl of the lake.

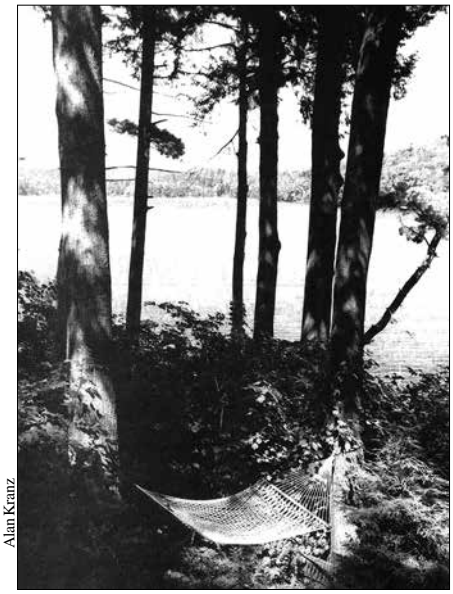
The method used for removal was diver-assisted suction harvesting. The equipment used allows for two divers to work simultaneously to remove the plants by the roots and send them to the surface via four inch suction hoses where the material collects in mesh bags so that it can be removed offsite. The purpose of starting the project so early in the season was to begin removing the milfoil before the peak growing season had begun. The advantage to this is that the biomass of the milfoil plants was somewhat reduced and the pondweed which it grows with was significantly suppressed as well. This made finding and removing the plants easier. The colder water temperatures did have an effect on efficiency however as cold-water equipment was required for the divers, which is slightly more time-consuming to use.

Due to the nature of the very light, soft sediment on the bottom of Lake Garfield, the work required a method which we refer to as the "sweep and re-sweep" method. During the work of removing the patches of milfoil, the soft sediment murks up the water, reducing visibility to zero over time. It is necessary to work an area and continue moving forward to stay ahead of the murky water so that the divers can effectively remove the milfoil. This means that thorough removal of large patches of milfoil requires several rounds of re-sweeping.

The second phase of the project is currently scheduled for September. The advantage of having a second phase of the project after the peak growing season is that it will afford the opportunity to remove same-year regrowth from the patches we are trying to clear. Regrowth is always expected due to fragments and any root material that is inevitably left behind. The ability to remove the regrowth in the same year will help to dampen the patches' ability to regain a foothold before next year. The focus should be to re-sweep the areas that were worked last fall and this spring, remove the remaining portion of the middle patch in the Northern Swath, and focus some time to remove areas of lesser growth before they can become significant patches.

Additional areas for work should be determined based on the levels of regrowth that are found and after discussion with Ken Wagner and representatives from Lake Garfield.

—New England Aquatic Services



Alan Kranz

Summer hammock on Lake Garfield

Notes: The full report, with greater detail on the work, and maps of the lake indicating the work areas, will be available on the town website, montereyma.gov, under Departments/Lake Garfield. The work this May and during this coming September were funded by the vote at the 2017 annual town meeting for $50,000 for milfoil removal on Lake Garfield.

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Speak Memory—Memoir writing

Saturday, June 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Nabokov called his memoir *Speak Memory*. This introductory one-day workshop, conducted by Berkshire resident Sonia Pilcer, is for writers who've wanted to get stories from their lives on paper, but haven't known how to begin. Whether the goal is publication, a legacy for family members, or the sheer literary and psychological adventure, Sonia Pilcer, who is the author of six published novels, will demonstrate how fiction techniques can make the material come alive. There will be in-class writing exercises to help trigger memories. Everyone is encouraged to read work aloud. No writing experience necessary. Pre-registration is required; please visit our website's event registration page at ccmonterey.org.

Sonia is the author of six published novels. Her most recent, *The Last Hotel: A Novel in Suites*, is available, as is her fictionalized memoir *The Holocaust Kid*, which she adapted as a theatrical play and which was performed at Shakespeare & Co. Sonia splits her time between NYC and Copake, NY.

How can I keep from singing?

Singing songs in a group is one of the great joys life has to offer—and not enough people know it.

A group of us, led by Oren Rosenthal, beginning June 19, will spend six weeks learning a small repertoire of easy, fun, uplifting songs that we can sing in unison or with simple harmonies. All levels of singers are welcome, including the most inexperienced. We will try out songs from many genres: folk, spirituals, popular, chants, Jazz standards, rounds. We will choose music the first week and work on a select repertoire for the next five weeks. Come join us and see what it is like to bring songs to life by gaining familiarity with them and working on them as a group.

This series starts on June 19, at 7:30 p.m., with an hour and a half sing when we'll try out and choose songs. Other sessions will be approximately an hour each on Tuesdays, June 26, July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31.

Sonia Pilcer

There is no fee; just your willingness to sing! No need to sign up, just come.

Oren Rosenthal has been a certified music therapist since 1995. In addition to working with individuals and groups in his role as music therapist, Oren has run music groups for preschoolers and mother-toddler groups and leads singing groups in nursing homes, assisted living centers, and councils on aging. He has run a music program at Gould Farm and has led a chorus in the Boston Gould Farm program for twenty-five years. He has worked with singers of all levels but especially loves working with those who think they can't sing. He plays guitar, fiddle, and accordion.

If you have questions please call the Monterey Community Center at 413.528.3600, or email to calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Mandala Workshop July 21

In July we invite you to explore yet another side of your creative self with a mandala workshop led by Susan Cain. This workshop requires no experience, only an interest in your own relationship to patterns, colors and shapes, and thereby to your emotions. Join Susan on Saturday, July 21, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., to learn more about this ancient practice with examples from almost all cultures around the world. Susan will provide all materials. The workshop is suitable for high school students and older, but those under 19 must be accompanied by an adult family member. Pre-registration is necessary as specific materials are needed for each attendee; the $20 fee includes materials cost.

The Monterey Community Center also hosts a number of ongoing activities which are available to all at little or no cost.

Mindfulness Meditation Group: Franny Huberman facilitates a mindfulness meditation practice group at the Monterey Community Center every Friday from 7 to 8 p.m., except the second Friday of each month (when the community center hosts board game night). This is free, open to all from beginners to experienced practitioners; no supplies needed.

To learn something about mindfulness practice, visit mindful.org/what-is-mindfulness.

Yoga: Beginning on June 30, and running each Saturday morning through September 1, we will present an hour of outdoor yoga at 11 a.m. Connie Wilson has organized the schedule of teachers, which will include herself. Now that we have a functioning building, we have a plan for inclement weather.

Dancercize: These weekly sessions have been suspended for the summer but will begin again in the fall.

Fiber Arts: Each month on the first Thursday, at 1 p.m., Wendy Jensen hosts the Darn Yarners, a loosely-knit group of people who knit, crochet, spin, mend, joke, and palaver about fiberwork, among other things. All are welcome.

Board Games: Elaine Lynch hosts an evening of fun each month on the second Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. We have a number of board games on hand, and people are welcome to bring their own favorites as well. It's a blast, and non-competitive.

Community Garden: There are a small number of garden plots available this spring. Contact us through the garden page of our website if you are interested.

The Monterey Community Center is available to you, subject to scheduling of course—it is a community facility. To see what's happening, or to reserve your meeting time, consult our website and the event calendar contained there, ccmonterey.org., or email us at calendar@ccmonterey.org.

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Mandala Art Workshop

The Monterey Council on Aging is sponsoring a free mandala drawing workshop on Thursdays, June 14 and June 21, at the Monterey Community Center, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

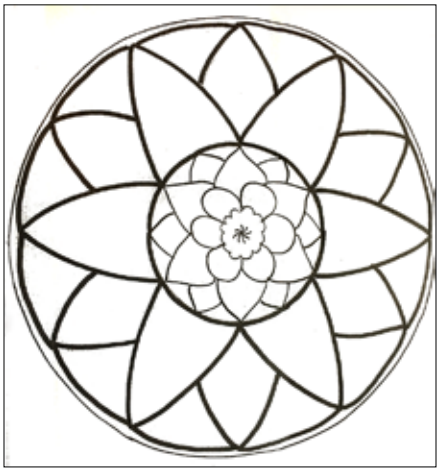
Mandalas are found everywhere—in flowers, in building structures, in the windows of Gothic cathedrals, on clothing, rugs, and walls. They are used in traditional Hindu, Tibetan, and Buddhist artwork.

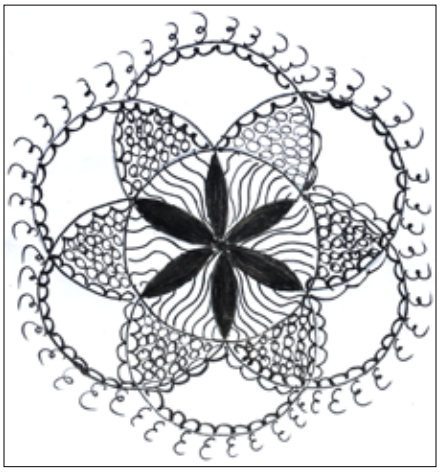
A mandala starts with a center point and then expands out geometrically. They can be made free form or drawn with a compass. As one draws a mandala, it takes the direction and form from the individual simply as a creative expression. Then it is colored in with markers, pens, paints, as well as with other media.

Come and join in this fun and calming art class. You will leave with a sense of peace and confidence. This individual self-reflective process promotes creative play and relaxation. The class will be led by Susan Cain, a local Kundalini yoga teacher and fiber artist.

Preregistration is necessary as all materials are individually supplied. Call Kay Purcell at 413-528-9151 to save your space.

—Susan Cain





Monterey Cultural Council
Members Needed

Dear Neighbors,

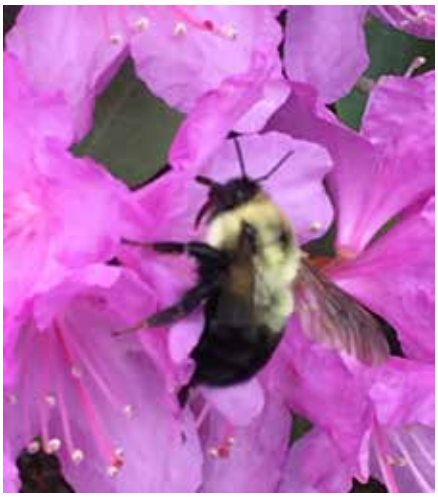
The Monterey Cultural Council's intention is to serve the Monterey community, its artists, and educators, by funding events and experiences that enrich our cultural lives. We use both state and local funds.

The MCC needs volunteers to ensure that the council will continue. A few of our most recent members have completed their time limits.

This is a serious concern. The MCC is a vital part of our community and if we can't find folks to join, we may not be able to continue with the committee.

If you are interested in finding out more about the MCC, stop by town hall on the third Monday of the month, at 7 p.m. (summer dates to be decided), or email me at wendybenj51@aol.com.

—Wendy Benjamin
Monterey Cultural Council



Bonsai Cox

Early bumblebee

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Knox Gallery in June

Ellen Grenadier:
My Life with Clay…So Far!

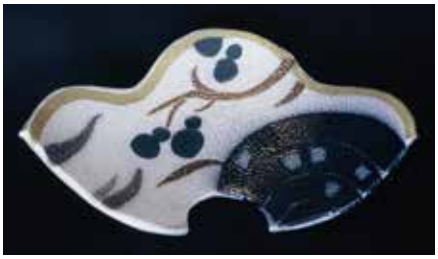
Beginning June 9, and continuing through July 21, the work of Monterey ceramic artist Ellen Grenadier will be on view at the Knox Gallery.

Please mark your calendars for the opening reception of Grenadier's *My Life with Clay…So Far!* on Friday, June 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. We hope you will also join us for a closing reception on Friday, July 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with an artist's talk immediately before, at 5:30 p.m.

Grenadier assures her fans that she intends to continue making pottery for many years. Even so, this exhibition is almost a retrospective in that it represents the breadth and evolution of her work—from her early days, to current work, to a glimpse into what she is working on next. At the opening, Grenadier will be available to describe the various techniques that she has used, which include salt glazes, inlaid colored clays, and majolica glazes. Also, immediately prior to her closing reception she will offer an artist's talk.

Grenadier earned a BA from Connecticut College and then studied salt glazing under a grant from the Tiffany Foundation. She co-founded Clay Dragon Studios in Cambridge, MA, and helped create and was head of the ceramics department at IS 183 Art School of the Berkshires, where she continues to teach. She has shown her functional clay work and custom tiles and murals throughout the United States. She moved to Monterey over twenty-five years ago—perhaps you have seen her turquoise "Studio and Gallery" sign on Tyringham Road, or visited her studio and seen her at work.

Top-Ellen Grenadier, photo by Lisa Vollmer.
Middle-Forest Fern Plates
Bottom-Fan plate, salt glazed
Ceramics photos by John Polak



The artist comments that, "Making artful pottery that will be used every day—objects that bring the intimacy of the handmade into people's homes and that encourage us to stop and enjoy the experience of dining," inspires her. She hopes that the spirit of her joy and gratitude for being alive, transformed into the colors, textures, and forms of pottery, enriches the experiences of viewers and collectors who enjoy her work.

Grenadier has generously offered to contribute 30% of the proceeds from sales to the Friends of the Monterey Library, and most of the work will be for sale.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/ 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery@Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

Annabel, Jim, and Carol with Jacob after his graduation ceremony.

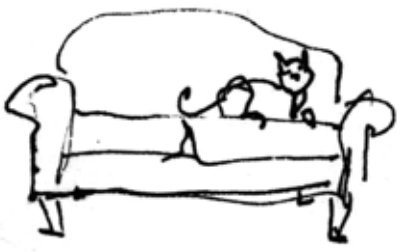
The Monterey Parks Commission recently had two large handicap-accessible portable toilets installed in addition to the one at the town beach. One is at Greene Park (left) and the other is along the entry to the community center. These should be convenient for folks walking around the village area. Photos by Maureen Banner.

Jacob Edelman Graduated

B.A. from Brandeis University

On May 13 Jacob Edelman graduated, cum laude, from Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, earning a B.A. with a double major in politics and history, minor in legal studies. Student union president during his senior year, he was awarded the Katherine A. Chernosky Memorial Award, given to an individual "whose manner of living embodies mature, conscientious dedication to duty, family and friends." In 2017, he was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society in the field of history. During his years at Brandeis, Jacob was also features editor at *The Brandeis Hoot*, a student-run newspaper; president of the Brandeis Democrats; president of the Brandeis Quiz Bowl; student representative for the department of legal studies; and was active in the Waltham group, a community service organization. He worked as a student interviewer in the University's admissions process. A 2014 graduate of Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, his proud parents are Jim and Carol Edelman of Monterey, MA.

—Jim and Carol Edelman



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Monterey Farmers Market
June 5, Roadside Cafe

Hear ye, Hear ye… The Monterey Farmers Market returns for its third season, hopefully starting Tuesday, June 5, pending some last-minute town approvals. We will be gathering at The Roadside Store, on Route 23, and are happy to announce that Gould Farm will be joining the vendor gang this season. In addition to our newest vendor offering breads, maple syrup, yogurt, veggies, and maybe delicious ice cream, the returning vendors and products include produce from both Kit Patten and Hannah Bracken's gardens, and Monterey Chèvre from Rawson Brook Farm. The Sweetish Baker will have both sweet and savory treats, including the crowd pleasing granola and rugelach, and there will also be eggs and meats including ground beef, hot dogs, and chicken from The Farm New Marlborough (they may also have quiche—yum). Keep an eye on the Monterey Farmers Market Facebook page for vendor updates.

While the decision to leave our original location at the Monterey Community Center was one not taken lightly, we are looking forward to a new season at The Roadside Store. The market will run Tuesdays, from June 5 through September 4, from 4 to 6 p.m., rain or shine. Bring your market bags and baskets.

—Hanna Jensen

Hannah Bracken

Police Report
Early March through Late May

Due to understandable situations, there was no police report in the April or May issues. Chief Backhaus has sent a full reporting of all of the police calls during that time. As of the receipt of his report, there is too little time to do a full summary, so this police report is an overview.

And it is largely very simple. The detailed incident reports reflect a police department where the primary activity is helping people in so many ways. Vehicle issues (accidents, speeding, lacking licenses), medical calls, searching for and returning lost dogs, providing assistance of all sorts, responding to trees down or icy road alerts, helping to resolve conflicts peaceably, responding to burglar alarms with no burglars, fire alarms with no fires (only burned food). There are a few incidents involving summons, arrests for transgressions, and supporting other departments in limited situations. There were no entertaining highlights of pigs stuck in trees, or anything else of that sort.

Judging by the range of these services, as a town, we are very fortunate that we have people who are available to respond, and whose primary demands seem to be helpful service.

—Stephen Moore

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THE SHOW WILL RUN FROM JUNE 23 TO JULY 22, 2018

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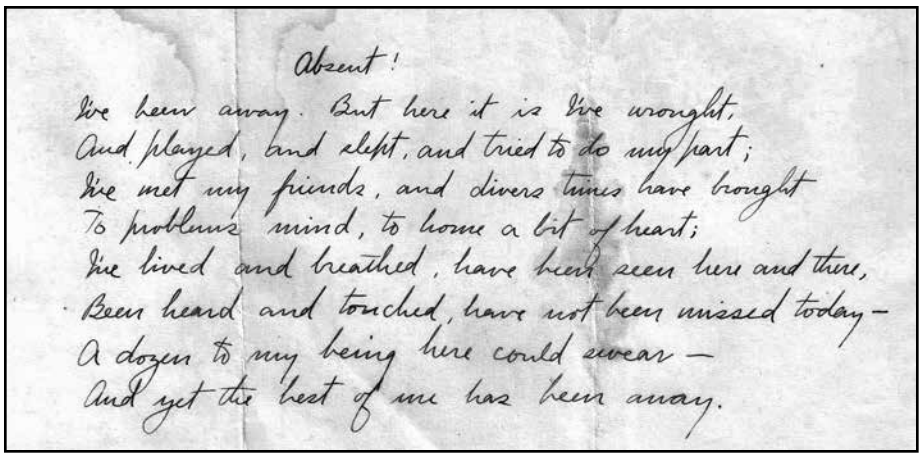
Amid exit of nays
As the ayes stayed on
For the items to come;
Expert the gavel
Dividing agenda
In clear punctuation,
No dragging delay.

Another fine memory
Glad that I went.

—Beryl I. McAllester
May 1998


Absent!
I've been away. But here it is I've wrought,
And played, and slept, and tried to do my part;
I've met my friends, and divers times have brought
To problems mind, to home a bit of heart;
I've lived and breathed, have been seen here and there,
Been heard and touched, have not been missed today—
A dozen to my being here could swear—
And yet the best of me has been away.

This poem was written by my grandfather, Dwight Ralston Little, to his wife, Jean Phyllis Little, a.k.a. "Mungo." He probably wrote it in the 30s or 40s. They owned an inn on Lake Buel, Littlecrest, that operated from the late 30s to 1956. —Kyle Pierce

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—Dwight Ralston Little,
to his wife, Jean Phyllis Little, a.k.a. "Mungo"

Goats along Gould Road. Photo by Steve Pullen.

Colors

I have seen colors made by man,
I have seen painting I didn't understand.
But I have seen sunsets that took my breath away,
That herald the end of one more perfect day.

Beautiful colors in meadow fair,
Hundreds of bees working there.
Black and white cattle on hillsides of green,
If you haven't seen these things—

There is heavenly beauty that you have not seen.

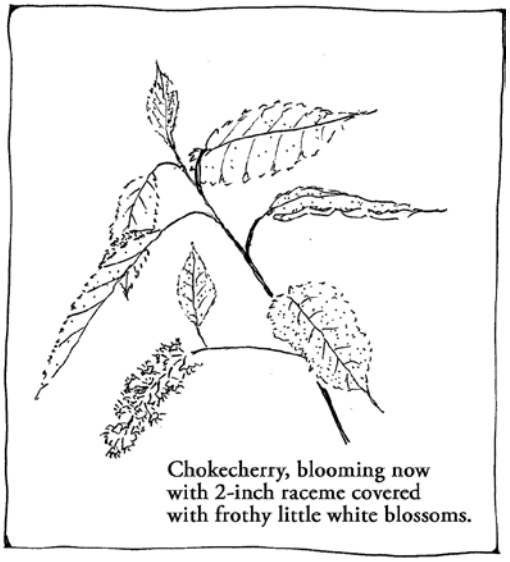
—Sheldon Fenn
Woodburn Farm

Wild Cherries: Rum, Pin, and Choke

Cherries are sliding into our garden, as they have been for more than forty years. I love their new leaves, so shiny and green, with edges and tints of deep red. These are natives, here long before us sodbusters came. We dug them up, hauled out their root systems as well as we could. We imposed a right-angled geometry on the curves of that south-facing slope and said, "This big square is what we call a garden. We get to decide what grows here, and you oaks, you pines large and small, even you colonizing grasses and milkweeds—we do not want you in here. You stay on the other side of this line!"

Ho, ho. We fought back these natives through our twenties, thirties, forties, on and on. Every spring they would jump the barricade and we would roust them out with our hands and hand tools. We'd made our own plan for this big square on the ground, in the sun and rain, and it was that this place would feed us all through the year. The plan adapted as we got more people living here, and then fewer. As we tried various things, found what we liked best, what we could store most successfully. As we learned to save seeds, use some seeds soon before they became reluctant to germinate. We kept notes. And all the time we struggled to hold the line against the indefatigable natives, including the cherries.

My parents lived next door for many years and worked in the garden with us. Dad had an idea for the little cherry trees. "Run an ad! Free cherry trees, dig your own." I pictured the local back-to-the-landers and estate managers rolling up here to clear our garden of little wild cherry trees. Truth is, I didn't want to teach them where to dig and how to dig, nor spend time getting to know them all and showing them around. I kept on doing it myself, and here I still am.



Chokecherry, blooming now with 2-inch raceme covered with frothy little white blossoms.

Downhill of the south border of the garden there is a sandy area we've always called Little Wyoming because of its poplars. We moved here from Wyoming and missed the aspens out there, the dry open places. So here we would carry our breakfast up from the tipi where we lived by the brook, in the deep dark woods of New England, and sit in the sun in Little Wyoming to warm up and reminisce.

At the top edge of Little Wyoming, the little cherries still stood, the ones just south of that border. We learned from Dad that these were "Choke Cherries," and sure enough, when their glossy red berries showed up in July, they were tart! Henry Thoreau wrote about them in his book *Wild Fruits*. He tried them and found them by the end of July to be " . . .as yet (July 30), at least very astringent,—puckering the mouth for a long time." They were a "rich, fatty fruit" but not easy to eat. In his book, Thoreau quotes William Wood, who wrote *New England's Prospect*, *Being a True, Lively, and Experimental Description of New England* in 1639.

"They be much smaller than the English cherry, nothing near so good, if they be not very ripe; they so furr the mouth that the tongue will cleave to the roof and the throat wax hoarse with swallowing these red bullies (as I may call them) . . . English ordering may bring them to an English cherry, but they are as wild as the Indian."

They do get riper and darker as August moves along. The ones I see every day as I hike up the hill to the garden are like this, hanging on their racemes like ornaments. In fact, more than two hundred years after William Wood, Thoreau writes, "Though they are scarcely edible, their beauty, especially when they are half ripe, atones for it. See those handsome racemes of ten or twelve cherries each—dark, glossy, red; semi-transparent? You love them not the less because they are not quite palatable."

These choke cherries do not grow tall, only up to twenty-three feet. We have another kind of small cherry in these parts called a "pin cherry" or "fire cherry," which may get to be thirty or forty feet high. Its germination and growth are helped by fires or other disturbances, and its seeds can wait and stay viable for up to fifty years. Pin cherries have their blossoms and fruits in small open clusters. The raceme of the chokecherry is more like a long spike, with flowers and then cherries all along it. In both these species, choke and pin, the blossoms and fruits are easy for us to see because they are not way up at the top of some tall tree. Our third kind of wild cherry gets tall.

This is the black cherry or rum cherry, as my dad used to call it. It can get to be fifty feet tall, and in the Allegheny Mountains of New York they say it can be one hundred and fifty feet. When young, these trees have a dark shiny bark, brown or reddish brown. As they mature, this smooth bark breaks into scales which

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curl outward on both sides. Finally, the old trees' bark consists of layers of reddish brown to black scales with up-turned edges. The scaly bark makes easy climbing for chipmunks, who love to get way up there when the cherries are ripe. They eat off the fruit and carry the seeds back down in their cheek pouches, to store in winter larders. Though chipmunks mostly sleep through the winter, they may wake and snack underground. The nut inside rum cherry pits tastes like an almond and is worth trying out for any of us.

I never knew why they were called rum cherries, maybe because as a kid I hadn't tried rum. Now that I have, I still don't get it. But Thoreau wrote this about these fruits: "Some, I hear, make spirituous drink with them, which they disguise under such names as 'cherry-bounce.'" This man was in such a perpetual state of heightened experience in nature that he had no need of alcohol or caffeine, and never touched either. He wrote that he did not want his perceptions and awarenesses altered.

I go to the garden every day to encourage corn, beans, and squash and to discourage chokecherries. Some day I will lose my influence, and these small native trees, with gleaming red fruits that darken so handsomely, will move easily up the hill and flourish in our little clearing, our disturbed ground.

—Bonner McAllester

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Mary Kate Jordan

Here's a Thought...

You've probably seen the billboard, but you may not know it's connected to Monterey.

You've probably seen the billboard on Route 7 in Great Barrington. It's been there four different times since last August. In May it made an appearance on the Mass Pike, too, just before Exit 3, heading east from Lee.

If you've seen it, you might have noticed the signature and logo in the lower right corner: the name Bonsai, and a small bonsai tree. Yes, Monterey's Bonsai Cox is behind this message of hope.

Bonsai grew up in Darien CT, the third of three children. Her mother was a successful model with the Powers agency in New York whose image appeared in various magazines, and on billboards. Once her face was on two billboards right next to each other, advertising two different products. As many children do, Bonsai wanted to be like her mom when she grew up, so she dreamed of having a billboard of her own. But she also knew she didn't want to appear on it herself.

Time ticked by. Decades passed. As the country began to be more divided, and as changes took place in her personal life, she began to more consciously look for something specific to say. It needed to be affirming without pulling anyone else down. It needed to be a powerful statement. It needed to be something she believed, and believes in.

The words settled first: love, peace, gratitude. She could get behind those. But the visual image? At first she thought it might be one of her photos. None felt quite right, but the pull to act kept getting stronger. Eventually, she contacted the folks at Lamar Advertising, the company behind many billboards, locally and in other parts of the country as well.

"The folks at Lamar are wonderful, professional, and helpful," Bonsai reports. "Everyone is great, from Kellie in billing, to the graphics group, to the man who climbs up to put the image in place."

While the billboard was being designed, Bonsai told the team she wanted rainbow colors behind the three words written in bold, solid black. The graphics department hit a home run on their first try.

You say you've missed it in the past, or just want to see it again—you'll have more opportunities. In July you can take a jaunt up to Guido's in Lenox and check the billboards on the right of Route 7 just before you get there. Or you can wait until September and see it again on the board near Shiro's in Great Barrington.

And if you want to share the message yourself, both The Bookloft and Crystal Essence sell this image on postcards and magnets. Love, peace, gratitude: pass'em along!

—Mary Kate Jordan

Bidwell House Museum

The staff of the Bidwell House is so happy to welcome visitors back to the museum. The winter was spent planning a great series of programs for the whole family this summer. Take a look at the lineup for June.

History Talks

Saturday, June 2: *The Silver Mountain.* The inaugural lecture in our summer history talk series will be presented by John Demos. In this fascinating talk Professor Demos will describe the remarkable history of Potosí, a city in the southern highlands of Boliva, during its heyday as the world's greatest silver mine and fulcrum of the Spanish colonial empire. It quickly rose to become, by far, the largest human community in the Western Hemisphere, a source of wealth that transformed the international economy. But it was, at the same time, virtually genocidal for the indigenous population.

Saturday, June 9: *Ministers, Merchants, and River Gods.* The museum's second history talk of the season features Kevin Sweeney, Professor Emeritus of History and American Studies at Amherst College. He will relate stories about the Williamses of Deerfield and Stockbridge, the most prominent of the powerful eighteenth-century families who came to be known as the river gods. The story of the Williams clan's rise and fall was shaped by and helped shape the western region's relations with Native peoples, military establishment, distinctive religious traditions, and critical political ties to Boston.

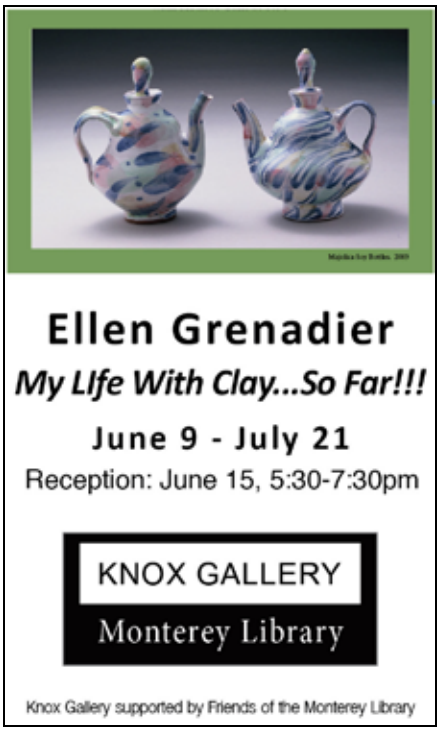
Saturday, June 30: *The Sun Ever Shines on Them.* The third history talk of the season features Russell Taylor, who is a descendant of Adonijah Bidwell. Mr. Taylor will tell the story of William and Jemima Bidwell Partridge. From missions in the Middle East and the Sandwich Islands, to the establishment of religious communities in the Midwest, the impact of some of Rev. Adonijah's grandchildren has been vast and enduring.

All lectures in the History Talk series will be held at 10 a.m., at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. $10 members, $15 non-members.

Other Summer Events

Sunday, June 3: *Birding in Your Backyard.* The museum is hosting a guided walk from 9 to 11 a.m. Designed for beginning birders who would like to expand their birding knowledge, Doug Bruce and Tom Ryan will lead visitors through the museum's hemlock-hardwood forest and show them the many types of birds that reside there. You will learn what to look for and how many of the birds sound.

Saturday, June 16, at 10 a.m.: *Archaeology on Bidwell Grounds.* The museum will present a captivating walk and talk on the grounds with archaeologist Kerry Lynch as we learn the results of the museum's 2017 archaeological dig. The soil and the materials recovered tell stories of the agricultural pursuits, the changes in the building structure, and the everyday lives of the residents who first began living at the Bidwell House over two hundred and fifty years ago.


Ellen Grenadier
My LIfe With Clay...So Far!!!
June 9 - July 21
Reception: June 15, 5:30-7:30pm
KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library
Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

Saturday, June 16, at 1 p.m.: *Retracing Native Histories on the Landscape.* Rob Hoogs will be leading a guided walk of a new interpretive trail on the Bidwell grounds. This walk will retrace the steps of the Native Americans—specifically the local Stockbridge Band of the Mohican Tribe—who lived and hunted in this area for thousands of years.

Fridays, June 15 and June 30: *Fun Family Tours.* New for 2018 are fun family tours that the museum will be offering two Fridays each month at 2 p.m. Bring your children or grandchildren to the Bidwell House for a look at the eighteenth century through the everyday lives of the children who would have lived in the house. Adults: $10. Seniors: $8. Student: $5. Children 12 and under are free.

Saturday, July 7: Bidwell Country Fair. From 1 to 4 p.m., we are hosting the Bidwell Country Fair, a free community celebration for the whole family (formerly known as Township #1 Day). One of the many fun events we have planned is a pie baking contest. If you love to bake and think your pie could win, contact the museum to enter the contest. For all of the details about the contest or to see a schedule of events for the Bidwell Country Fair, call the museum at 413-528-6888, or go to the website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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Sunday, July 8: Open-Mic Music Festival. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., show us what you've got with an open mic for any musician interested in playing. Then from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., enjoy the rockin' sounds of The BTUs while relaxing in the park-like setting in front of the museum. Whether you are a musician who loves to play or a music lover who enjoys listening to a live band, it should be a fun time for all. The cost to attend will be $10 per carload and there will be snacks for purchase. If you are interested in playing during the open-mic portion of the event, contact the museum to add your name to the list.

Saturday, August 4: Last but not least, don't miss our summer garden party at The Art School, home of Jane and Marty Schwartz, from 4 to 7 p.m. The museum is so excited to be honoring neighbors Jill Horner and Yo-Yo Ma. There will be food, drink, dancing, and silent auction of artwork from local artisans. It should be a glorious evening in a historic, beautiful Berkshire location.

Do you like to plan parties and have fun? Please join the gala party committee. Contact co-chairs Maggie Barkin (maggierobertsbarkin@gmail.com) or Linnea Grealish (linnea1027@comcast.net). We would love to have you.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

Fiber Connect
Where is my Internet?

Fiber Connect is steadily building 1Gbps fiber-to-the-home throughout southern Berkshires. Currently in Egremont, we have completed approximately 44% of the town and are actively on our way to 75% town coverage. Likewise in Monterey we have completed about 40% of the town with a company commitment to achieve a total of 72% coverage. Additionally in Monterey, we are feverishly working with the dedicated town administration to establish funding to complete a network build as close to 100% coverage as physically possible.

The initial 44% of Monterey is primarily around the Lake Garfield side of town. We continue our expansion toward the Otis border, Great Barrington border, and Hartsville border.

So what's the delay? The short answer is "make-ready."

Not sure what we mean by "make-ready?" This is the process of preparing utility poles to receive our fiber optic cable. This starts with an application to the pole owners (National Grid & Verizon) requesting a survey and engineering of the poles to calculate what work needs to be done. This involves a complex set of rules and codes to determine the needs. Pole owners return an estimated make-ready cost (open to negotiation) covering any pole repairs, the moving of existing wires to make room, and possible pole replacements. We then wait until every entity that has something attached to the pole sends their crews to move them. Overshadowing this process is the pole owners' current backlog of make ready applications in the larger region, and the unforeseen accidental damage, acts of god, or other events that take priority over completing the make-ready work. Once all make ready work is completed, and licenses for each individual pole issued to Fiber Connect for hanging the fiber cables, then we can send out our crews to hang and splice the cable. The make-ready process is the lengthiest and most out-of-our-control portion of our build process.

To stay up-to-date with our progress in Monterey, or any other area of our footprint, visit the Berkshire Town Networks section on our website, bfcma.com, under the "About" tab.

New Residential Pricing

We've added two new pricing options to our residential service to help you with financing our standard installation fee of $999.

- Our base plan is $99/month with a three-year service agreement, with a $999 installation cost.
- You may choose to pay $99/month with a 5-year service agreement and you'll pay $699 install.
- Pay $125/month with a 3-year service agreement and you'll pay $199 install.
- For a limited time, we are offering the opportunity to save $500 off the $999 install that comes with our plan of $99/month and three-year service agreement. The offer is in effect from now until Friday, June 22, 2018. It is available to only those premises in areas with fiber cable already available. To know if your residence qualifies, contact our Fiber Connect Office: 413-429-4109, or sales@bfcma.com, and mention the promotion code MN06.

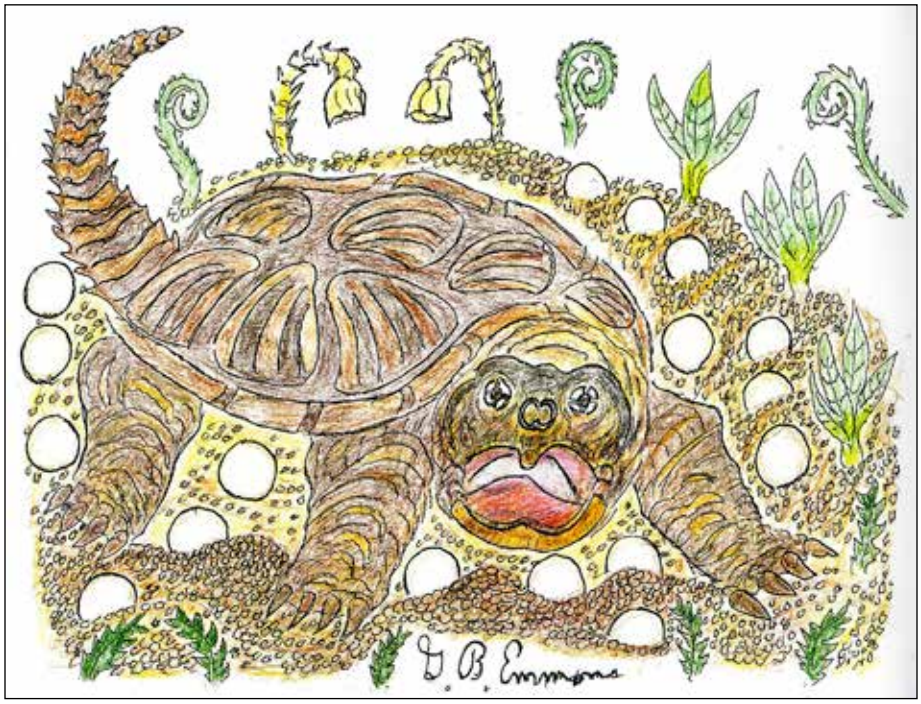
To learn more, check our website at bfcma.com.

—Adam Chait
Fiber Connect

Having a Good Day

- The branch that broke during the high wind missed your house by two feet.
- Your granddaughter's long-planned outdoor wedding had a beautiful day.

The Primordial Snapping Turtle



The warming days of June will stimulate the reproductive urge of the female snapping turtle to crawl up out of Lake Garfield waters from their winter hibernation and head overland a half-mile or more to lay her eggs, perhaps in the sunny side of lower Brewer Pond dam for the next generation. Along her traditional route of this annual pilgrimage, often to this same location, she may appear at the edge of many local roads getting ready to cross the most visible leg of her journey. Then, in less than a single day, she will lay thirty to forty leathery eggs and bury them in warm sand of a sunny slope (as illustrated). When her reproductive duty is done, she promptly retraces her steps along the same route, to get back to the comfort of the muddy bottoms of her aquatic habitat. Unfortunately, this leaves her eggs in a previously known location often to be found by hungry skunks, raccoons, and crows.

I have often seen a nest ravaged with broken egg shells scattered about after they were left unprotected. Later, if hatched, the young are left to fend for themselves. Uncertain terrestrial egg laying is a strange reptilian roll-of-the-dice ritual for snappers. Their scientific classification, *Chelydra serpentina*, is so named as a snapping turtle with highly mobile heads and necks, almost snake-like. The commonly called "snapper" seems to be dangerously mean-spirited when confronted on land by unsuspecting mankind, with relentless powerfully gripping jaws and sharp edges of a tail. They are said to have a reputation of grabbing the legs of waterfowl ducklings and goslings and pulling them underwater to be eaten, but in practice this is possibly overestimates the number of water fowl taken.

When the young hatch out in August or early September, they are about the size of a quarter, with a cute turtle face that only a mother could love. The clutch of eggs hatch at the same time, and then, immediately after hatching, often at night time, they all head off as a marching group, retracing their mother's path as she returns to the nearest water. They were nevertheless brought to life by a very selective parent, who, after breeding on land, was able to store the male sperm for up to several seasons until her reproductive system and environmental conditions are favorable. This is a strange natural contradiction to her otherwise parental disregard for offspring.

Snapping turtles also have the most astounding temperature-dependent sex determination. Scientific tests prove that eggs incubated at about 68°F produce only females, 70° to 72°F both males and females, and 73° to 78°F only males. They emerge from the leathery containers by using a small egg tooth to break the shells. Once they get bigger and their shells harden, their chances of living as long as ten years in the wild greatly improve, though some live much much longer than that. But from the very beginning, the odds are stacked against them, and less than 10% of eggs laid and hatched grow to maturity. Yet they are said to be primordial, a term meaning reproducing in their original form and re-enacted unchanged over millions of years.

We learned in science class at an early age that the emergence of the first living forms on land crawled up out of the sea, which may be best described as a fertile primordial soup. On a warm day in June, you may cross paths with a snapping turtle, as she reenacts this ancient reproductive journey. May I suggest you don't try to disrupt or interfere in any way with her intent of reproduction. Appreciate that what has come into the light on a warm day in June, and is slowly crossing a country road for all to see, is a moving link in the unbroken chain of survival renewed by mother nature since the beginning of time.

—George B. Emmons

Maureen Banner

Note: People sometimes feel that they need to "rescue" the slow moving snapping turtles as they cross roads. The best course of action is to help them cross safely by getting cars to stop. There is almost no point on a snapping turtle's carapace that they cannot reach with their "snake-like" necks to wound a would-be helper. And despite their appearance, their undersides are rather fragile and can be easily wounded by being picked up with a shovel, or worse, being pulled by their tails. Once they get safely to the other side, their instincts and experience will guide them the rest of the way just fine. Drivers can be patient.

2018 Fund Appeal Donors
Second Set of Supporters

Last month we were pleased to list approximately 160 folks who responded to the annual mailed fundraising appeal. Below are another 90 whose contributions came too late for last month's issue.

As we head into the busy summer season, we hope other folks will remember the value of the *Monterey News* as a source of news and information about town activities.

Marilyn Rossier
Andrea & Amos Neufeld
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Lynne & John Gardner
David & Mary Ehrlich
Carole & Gerry Clarin
Melissa Hamilton Kolberg

ॐ

Call for Artists and Craftspeople
Otis Annual Arts Festival

The Otis Cultural Council is seeking artists and craftspeople for the Eleventh Annual Arts Festival to be held on Saturday, September 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farmington River Elementary School, on Route 8 North, in Otis. The show is indoors and admission is free. For more information, go to townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, or call 413-269-4674.

Thank you for considering joining us.

—Arlene Tolopko
Otis Cultural Council

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Wildlife Report
Mid-April to Mid-May

In mid-April Roz Halberstadter heard of some Housatonic River sightings when she stopped at the Tune Street store that is now along Routes 23 and 7 in Great Barrington, east of the river. There has been good bird watching along the river behind the store including recently a Kingfisher, a Bald Eagle, and a Golden Eagle. There was also an otter in the river.

In the middle of that month, Steve Snyder went to visit Thousand-Acre Pond and saw many Wood Ducks, a pair of Hooded Mergansers, some Canada Geese nesting, and both an Osprey and a Bald Eagle soaring. About a week after that, I saw a kingfisher at the pond by the Quaker Meetinghouse in Great Barrington. At this time in the Tyringham Valley, a certain horse pasture was just peppered with the big dark purple blossoms of skunk cabbages.

Kit Patten gave a detailed report on the statistics concerning spruce cones stashed in his garden shed last fall by Red Squirrels, as documented in April's Wildlife Report. The shed is ten feet by five feet on the floor. Kit has cleaned the place up, ready for whatever comes next, and in so doing he carried twenty-five gallons of spruce-cone detritus from the scene, which included 215 cones still intact. This was a bumper crop with a surplus.

Above is a muddy snapping turtle in the parking lot at Berkshire South Community Center, sent in by Maureen Banner. She also sent a photo of a fancy millipede on a tree trunk. In case anyone needs to know the difference between a centipede and a millipede, one sure thing is that millipedes have more legs, in fact two pairs of legs per body segment, as compared with only one pair per segment on a centipede. This will not add up to one thousand legs compared with one hundred legs, at least not for me, or not necessarily.

Maureen Banner's millipede photo.

Late in April Paul DePreter noticed that his five bird boxes were housing at least two or three pairs of bluebirds and of tree swallows. You do the math. By early May the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks had arrived at several feeding stations in town, including the Sawyer family's and Sharon Rosenberg's. Maureen and Michael Banner had such a visitor, too, and sent a photograph (top of page 25). In it you can see this is a young bird, still a little spotty in places as he acquires his adult male plumage. Suzanne Sawyer wrote in about an Indigo Bunting at their feeder, and I think somebody else did, too, but I can't remember who it was.

There has been an exciting moose story unfolding in Tyringham, featuring a young moose who showed up first on the east end of Lake Garfield, as noted in the May wildlife report, but then found his way over the hill by Friday of the last weekend in April. He stopped in a long narrow hayfield on Tyringham Road on the right as you head down on the Tyringham side and on that day Carol Edelman stopped, along with many others, and took photos. The moose seemed unafraid of people and

Peter Murkett

Peter Murkett

one man approached with an outstretched arm. The moose seemed to sniff his hand. Steve Moore drove by later and saw this moose, and then Peter Murkett and Paul DePreter sent photos from the same field on Saturday and Sunday (above). Peter said one man felt the moose looked "in bad shape" but it could have been he was just wet and tattered-looking, maybe with shedding a winter coat. Tom Sawyer saw the moose on Monday morning, across the road from the Tyringham transfer station, and then there were no more sightings until Anne Shatas saw him over by Ashintully, on the "other" Tyringham Road, the one that finally comes out on Route 23 in West Otis. Her photo, below at the left, was taken twelve days after those first ones from Carol Edelman. Since then I have heard nothing more, though I got a note from Lois Jensen who lives near Ashintully. She has seen the moose in her field and felt its behavior was oddly unafraid. She called a Massachusetts State Wildlife office and learned that there is a parasite that affects moose, sometimes resulting in their being inappropriately or uncharacteristically unafraid. The parasite is known as "brain-worm" and creates mental confusion in moose.

We might not hear the end of this story. We can hope for the best for this young moose. Lois Jensen wrote also of there being two adults and a calf moose in her field more recently, so the population continues over there.

Just as I was writing up this report, I got two more large mammal notices. John Heffernan called from Mount Hunger Road to tell of a big bear, the biggest he has ever seen, and he has seen quite a few. This one came at breakfast time and found a big can of birdseed in a dilapidated shed. He or she hauled this out, turned it on its side, removed the lid, and enjoyed the birdseed for quite some time, then left. By the end of the day, after John had cleaned up and shut the can up in a sturdy garage, the bear came back for supper at just the same place, only to be disappointed.

A bit later in the evening I heard from Lisa Smyle of the accidental death of a handsome Yellowthroat, a warbler which must have flown into a window at her house (above). Lisa also tells of a Mountain Lion sighting on the part of her son Evan, near the Great Barrington town line. This was a big tan cat with a long tail, crossing the road.

So our stories are told, and thanks to everyone for collecting and passing them along. This is our well-loved wild community.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com

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Maureen Banner

Below-Long time, now former, resident of Monterey, Bob Horvath, sent in this image of a bear feeder. The future of that feeder's pole is very much in doubt. Apparently, bears get fed in Lenox too.

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From the Meetinghouse

Im-mediacy: The Gospel of Mark

Mark is the shortest of the four biblical gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). It's also my favorite.

This year, at the meetinghouse, we're following Mark through the church year, and we're not alone. Most mainline Protestant churches will do this, as will the Roman Catholic Church. The lectionary calendar is a three-year cycle, wheeling us from the first Sunday of the church year, in late November or early December, to the last, a week prior to the next first; and it follows the Gospel of Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C.

This is Year B, Mark's year.

Mark has a lot of particular obsessions, one of which is that his readers—who'd have originally been hearers—experience his words and narrative with immediacy. Im-mediacy: "Mark" seems worried this might be lost amidst the inescapable fact that he was reliant on a medium to communicate his message. The written word is, after all, a form of media, and mediation. The Holy Spirit, though; the spirit of Christ; the Living God who animates these manifestations of this eternal, persistent presence: these can only truly be understood as immediate.

True, it's thought God used the word to create the real: "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." So God in some mysterious way also used "media" in order to mediate a distinction now drawn between God and creation, between eternity and time. But Mark at least seems to have thought this mediation should yet be about as immediate as any of us could hope for, indeed could imagine. And for this he'd continue to aim for immediacy. Really, in his short book he uses some derivation of "immediate" or "immediately" forty-nine times, which amounts to over twice per chapter. This suggests to me that, among other things, Mark was about two millennia ahead of his time—because we seem equally obsessed with how to connect with the real and amidst so much that seems suspiciously unreal, and we seem to think this is a particular concern of the post-modern, post-structural, post-everything West.

I've spent the last year or so trying to get inside a slim volume by French political philosopher Jean Baudrillard. Written in 1981 and translated into English in 1994, *Simulacra and Simulation* is a slower read than one hundred and fifty pages has any right to be. In it, Baudrillard lays out a four-step process that he calls the "Procession of Simulacra," a procession he asserts human civilization has embarked upon, and back from which he seems to suspect there is no return—though I'm not so sure.

The first step produces images that reflect, or faithfully represent, a profound reality. Portraits might be such things, as could (I would add) religious icons, texts, or practices. Indeed, "Mark," I imagine, would satisfy himself (however reluctantly) with having produced something true enough to revelation in his gospel text, the Gospel of Mark. Though his is not immediate divine revelation (despite what biblical "literalists" might want to assert), it is but of the first stage of simulation, and that's not half bad.

These first-order images, however, might teeter into the second step in the procession, what can be considered a perversion of reality, wherein images mask and denature a profound reality. This was what made Protestant iconoclasts so anxious that they went to the trouble of destroying so much religious art—the suspicion that those icons were doing violence to the God they purported to make present. This might also be the difference between art and illustration, a line Norman Rockwell himself is said to have drawn, placing himself in the camp of illustrator. His pictures recall reality, but reality as it never quite was.

MONTEREY UNITED

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Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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The third step of the procession of simulacra is in the production of images or artifacts that mask the absence of a profound reality. That there is no reality, no fundamental truth or ground on which to stand, this stage revels in pretense, in the pretend. For this, Baudrillard considers Disneyland, situated as it is in Los Angeles, though as if a world apart, as if standing in contrast to the "real world" that is Los Angeles and, by extension, America. What it actually lays bare, though, is the absence of a thusly-real world, Los Angles being as phantasmagoric as Disneyland, and America being so as well. Disneyland, Los Angeles, America with its hyper-production and rushing of markets: it's all a "perpetual pan-shot" and a setting of a scenario. It's all a frantic masking and unmasking of an otherwise harrowing absence.

Now, the fourth and final step: the image has lost all connection to reality, indeed can be understood as unmasking the real absence of reality. This pure simulacrum, this pile of signifiers pointing to other signifiers: this is the only truth. There is nothing else. There is nothing.

Think: "Wendy" of Wendy's Hamburgers, in its logo the picture of a sweet country girl from a simpler time, a girl who never was. There never was a "Wendy," and that is her picture.

Think: The Ark Encounter, a museum/theme park featuring a "life-size" replica of Noah's Ark. It simulates Noah's "real" experience in taking care of all those wild animals on an ark, with impressive animal statues that look so real (we think, because this was a long time ago, the website is careful to explain, so some of the animals would have looked different from what we're used to now, which means, what? Evolution? I couldn't possibly say.) But there are real live animals at the Ark Experience too—some goats, a few emus. Ugh. Its religiously "fundamentalist" insistence has the opposite of the intended effect, inviting skepticism, suggesting cynicism. But there's a zip-line there, so that's fun.

Think: an "original" "print" by Andy Warhol, or more recently a poodle fashioned as if in balloons, whose likeness is cast, enormous, in steel, and manufactured in a factory-studio by artisans doing the bidding of "artist" Jeff Koons. As it happens, one of these giant pieces of work sold for $54 million, the art of it being in it as pure and self-aware simulacrum. Genius!

Or tragic, depending on what you're hoping for in this life.

My guess is that a lot of you who love Monterey love it in part because there is something so real about it, so immediate. You can grow your own food, or at least know those who did. You can walk ancient trails and visit native cairns tucked away, nearly forgotten, in the grown-back woods. You can feel the weather on your face, pet a llama, go for a run with a goat, swim in a lake, pour syrup on your pancakes that originated in one of the trees that give us shade and whisper us to sleep through open windows with the coming summer, live together in community as if your recovery from what-have-you depended on it.

You can go to town meeting and hash it out with your neighbors as to how many fire trucks we should rightly own and what we should do about the school, make some friends and probably a few enemies. You can stop into the coffee club, and pass mornings together, which turn to months and then to years. You can come to worship in an old meetinghouse that still stands true, and enact an ancient story of redeeming love in such a way as isn't too far along the procession of simulacra, might even offer some immediacy of redeeming love.

I've traveled a lot this spring—not big, long, impressive trips, just short visits here and there. It's had me in more than one Outback Steakhouse, where I could eat anywhere in America but as if I were in "Australia." It's had me on more than one tour that simulated a factory or a plantation. It's had me busy with piped-in music, renditions of renditions. It's had me swimming in hotel pools lined with plastic plantings and filled with blown-up floating Minions and Mickey Mice and Hello Kitties. It's had me eager to come home to grass growing under my feet, dogs barking me awake in the early morning, and wilting lettuce in my fridge--so I'd better eat it now!

One Sunday when I was just back, Eric and Bev were our musicians for worship, Eric on his viola and Bev on the piano. The sound of the strings, bowed and hammered, fingers on instruments, was as beautiful a thing as I could imagine, a re-presenting of the reality I'd been missing. It had been there all along, of course, but the built environments of so much of our America feel to foreclose on our ever interacting with it. But not so now, not so here. With "Mark" as our guide, immediacy was to be our aim, will be all year; and you'd be welcome to join us if you've had your fill of the false.

See, I'm not so convinced that there's no return from the realm of pure simulacrum. But, of course, I'm not a French political philosopher. I'm a country church pastor and there's almost nothing I enjoy more than opening those doors again on Sunday morning and seeing what truth arrives among us.

—Pastor Liz Goodman

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Your Choice

The other day I found myself roaming about in a large store offering toiletries, and grooming products, along with general merchandise. There, arrayed on a large shelf, was a display of hair dryers from various manufacturers—twenty-seven distinct devices, priced from $19.99 to $149.99. I recounted just to make sure; yup—twenty-seven hair dryers, similar in shape, differing in color. That somehow led me to recall a book, *People of Plenty* by David Potter, dating from the 1950s, which, in what was then a novel thesis, identified abundance as the distinct and defining feature of American society. Surely, providing consumers with that many hair dryers to choose from would seem to confirm his original insight.

We've known abundance for quite a long time in the United States (the fact that it is unequally distributed and that there are millions obliged to do without is, of course, another matter). Indeed, discussion has moved on to consider a more recently recognized consequence of abundance—namely boundless variety, i.e., virtually unlimited, frequently bewildering options. Consumers entering the marketplace are likely to encounter a multitude of choices in almost every category of goods and services. Baskin-Robbins may have introduced a plethora of ice cream flavors years ago (31), but now, almost every such purveyor offers choices galore. Cruise along the breakfast cereal aisle in any large supermarket and be startled by the endless display of crunchy, crispy, hearty possibilities. Pick up a color chart at your local paint store and be dazzled by the dozens of choices and shadings available, even within the particular color you're considering. Exploring vacation ideas—fly, cruise, sail, drive, travel by rail or bus or bike to and around nearly every corner of the earth (and soon outer space as well). Remember when you once knew all the car makers and all models? No longer. Auto showrooms and manufacturer's brochures will start your head spinning, and that's before you've begun reviewing optional features. One could once easily navigate daily TV listings and choose from a relatively limited number of programs. That task has become far more challenging these days, given the countless new offerings from an ever expanding range of sources and platforms.

No further elaborations or illustrations are needed. Abundance made variety possible; variety meant choices, and choices required decisions. For some, such choices were exhilarating and liberating, even elevating. Each time they travelled it was to a different destination. They consumed foods rarely if ever available, barely even recognized years before. They dined at restaurants representing the cuisines of nations spanning the globe. They sampled art, and art forms only recently conceived. They assembled sizable troves of collectibles of all sorts, objects both precious and prosaic, from sources across the world. They sipped wines from regions and nations located outside the traditional sources in France, Italy and Spain. When it came to investing they ventured well beyond stocks and bonds, putting money into IPOs, MLPs, REITs, crypto currencies, commodities, and other exotic financial constructs. With choices galore all across society, life in the cornucopia that was America became for many an ongoing adventure and challenge more fulfilling and comprehensive than ever before.

But lots of folks have not come on board. Many studies have demonstrated that when faced with multiple choices people often become indecisive, frustrated, tend to hesitate and delay. Consider also the fact that many do not find choices at all welcome or necessary. Millions upon millions of Americans have long been set in their ways, comfortable with decisions and choices made many many years ago. Life for them is largely a process of repetition, a recurring cycle of that which is predictable, tried and true, traditional. There are people who day in and day out will have the same breakfast or in a restaurant will order what they've always eaten. And, despite the profusion of dining possibilities, will patronize the same eatery again and again, express little interest in sampling others. They will head to the same vacation retreat season after season, listen to music no more recent than Frank Sinatra, or, if classically inclined, show little interest beyond Bach, Mozart, Beethoven. They will watch old television reruns and remain loyal to brands they've known and selected for years. They remain in the same houses they've lived in since they were married and have retained much of the original furniture. If men, they're likely to be satisfied with the clothes purchased years ago, and if women, maintain the same hairstyle for as long as anyone can remember. These folks, no doubt, recognize the wide range of choices available to them, but prefer keeping things the way they are; how they've long been for them. They've thus created for themselves a way of life—stable, familiar and predictable.

The United States, many observers concede, is divided to an unprecedented degree. No simple explanation can account for this, but it would seem to be connected, at least in part, to the division revealed above—i.e., between those at home who and can afford the world of abundance, who are eager to explore choices and experience change, and those more comfortable and secure proceeding in ways more familiar, where change is less intrusive and where choices often represent sources of confusion and contradiction.

—Richard Skolnik

Transfer Station Programs
Monterey Leads the Way

This is a reminder update to residents of how our transfer station is working hard to improve recycling, reduce costs to the town, and benefit our residents.

Mandatory Recycling

From the Town of Monterey Bylaws: August 25 and 31, 1989; May 3, 2003:

Section 1: In order to implement a program of recycling in conjunction with ordinary waste disposal, residents of every household shall separate waste material into the following categories before depositing the same for disposal:

1) glass and cans, (we now include plastics);

2) paper and corrugated paper (cardboard);

3) other recyclable materials.

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to ask Beth or Dave at the transfer station.

Food Waste-to-Compost

Most people don't realize how much food they throw away every day—from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. About 95% of the food we throw away ends up in landfills or combustion facilities. In 2014, more than thirty-eight million tons of food waste in the US was disposed of. By managing food sustainably, and reducing waste, Monterey can save money, keep compostable materials out of landfills, and create compost for our home flower and vegetable gardens.

This will be the second year (first full year) of our food waste-to-compost program. Our composting program will turn kitchen food waste into garden ready compost. Working with Gould Farm and the MA Environmental Protection Agency Compost Initiative Group, Monterey received funding to cover the initial costs associated with a food waste-to-compost experimental program. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), which gave the town the grant, has estimated that we are keeping three to five hundred pounds a week out of the landfill. We've already saved the town an estimated $3,000 in hauling and disposal fees. Amazing.

Last year we used some of the grant money to purchase counter-top composting buckets. They were a success so we purchased additional ones for this year but will have to cover the cost. If you would like one they are available from Melissa Noe or Terri Walker at town hall. The cost is $5.00 (available on Amazon for $15.99) They are on display at the transfer station.

For those who participated this past year, compost is available. Check with Dave and Beth and they will direct you to the pile. We ask that you limit yourself to one twenty gallon barrel. This program is a work in progress and we'll be better able to know the amounts of finished compost later in the year. To be eligible for compost you must register at town hall or the transfer station.

What can be composted:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Coffee Grounds/Filters
- Tea/ tea bags
- Bread/Grains
- Paper Towel
- Cut Flower

What cannot be composted:

- Fish
- Chemicals
- Dairy
- Cardboard
- Meat

Bulky Plastic Recyling

Working with our waste hauler, Valley Disposal, and the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we are be asking residents to separate bulky rigid plastic items and dispose of them in a separate dumpster. What is bulky rigid plastic?

Think kids outdoor play things (big wheels, plastic play houses, etc.), clothes baskets, anything that is made of plastic, is large and bulky in size, and not easy to bend. These items take up a huge amount of space in our bulky waste dumpster and costs us money in hauling and separating fees at the recycling plant. Working with the MA DEP, Monterey received a grant to purchase a dumpster to be used only for bulky rigid plastic. This will result in less monies expended by the town and more items being recycled responsibly.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Ask about museum passes

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Mattress Recycling

Massachusetts residents and businesses discard approximately 600,000 mattresses and box springs annually, with two-thirds being collected and shipped out of state. That leaves 200,000 mattresses unloaded at landfills and incinerators around the state each year. These discarded mattresses and box springs can be notoriously difficult to manage. Mattresses have long been the bane of land fills, where they take up a disproportionate amount of space. Their metal coils also damage shredding equipment that breaks up trash before it's burned at incinerators.

In Monterey we have had to pay up to $30.00 per mattress for disposal.The good news is that mattresses are made up almost entirely of recyclable materials. So, recycling or reuse only makes sense. Once disassembled, up to 95% of mattress/boxspring components—the coils, foam, cotton, and wood—can be recycled.

Last year the MA EPA granted funds to Monterey that will pay a facility in the eastern part of the state (none in western MA) the hauling costs. We were also successful in receiving a grant to pay for that large, enclosed storage unit located at the transfer station. It will hold one hundred mattresses.

So, continue to bring your mattresses to the transfer station for free disposal. Join with us as we save the environment one mattress at a time.

Lastly, Reuse!

Monterey has a wonderful facility for reusing items in good condition. It's called the Swap Shop. Check it out, bring things, take things. No electronics, only items in usable condition. Please check with Beth before dropping off items.

—Monterey Select Board

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the Monterey News to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, June 4 and 18, at 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, June 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, June 11 and 25, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, June 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, July 26, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, June 6, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, June 14 and 28, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesdays, June 6, at 9 a.m., and June 20, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Special Town Meeting: Friday, June 29, at 7 p.m., at town hall.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

There will be a special town meeting on Friday, June 29, at 7 p.m., at town hall to take care of the following four items:

- An article authorizing the select board to apply for, accept, and expend a MassWorks Grant from the Massworks Infrastructure Program in the amount of $1 million.
- An article to amend the following amounts approved at the annual town meeting on May 5: Line item 650 "Community Center Operations" to $0 (as we will be requesting approval for a revolving account), and Line item 914 "Health Insurance" to $151,000 (to reflect the decision made to lower the town administrator expenses for FY19).
- An article requesting to add a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½ as a bylaw, as is now required under the MA Municipal Modernization Act.
- To discuss a proposal from the assessors to hire a part-time person to assist the principal assessor.

—Carol Edelman, Chair
Kenn Basler and Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)

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Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency):
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chief@montereyma.gov
Highway Department.: 528-1734
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montereylibrary@gmail.com
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mpdchief@montereyma.gov
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Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult softball, 10:30 a.m., at Greene Park.

Every Tuesday: Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Monterey Farmers Market, 4 to 6 p.m., Roadside Store. See page 16.

Fridays through June 15: Matter of Balance classes, 1 to 3 p.m. See page 30.

First Thursdays: June 7-Darn Yarners, at the community center, from 1 to 3 p.m. See page 12.

Second Fridays: June 8, board games at the community center, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Fridays: Mindfulness meditation with Franny Huberman, from 7 to 8 p.m., community center. See page 12.

Saturday, June 2: Bidwell history talk: "The Silver Mountain," 10 a.m. See page 20.

Sunday June 3:

Bidwell Museum: "Birding Beyond Your Backyard," 9 to 11 a.m. See page 20.

Mindful Art, with Kit Patten, at the community center, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 9:

Library project—planting native shrubs on Gould Farm field, 9 a.m. See page 10.

Fishing Derby at the Berkshire Hatchery pond, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Bidwell history talk: "Ministers, Merchants and River Gods." 10 a.m. See page 20.

Knox Gallery: Opening of Ellen Grendadier's *My Life with Clay... so Far!* 5:30 p.m. artist's talk. 6 to 7:30 p.m. reception. See page 14.

Thursdays, June 14 and 21: Mandala drawing workshop, 12:30 to 2 p.m. Sponsored by the council on aging. See page 13.

Fridays, June 15 and 29: Bidwell House: Fun Family Tour. 2 p.m. See page 20.

Saturday June 16:

Bidwell House: Archaeology on Bidwell Grounds, 10 a.m. See page 20.

Bidwell House: Native American Woodland Walk with Rob Hoogs, 1 p.m. See page 20.

Lenox Contra Dance. Live music with Coincidance, Katy Heine calling. 8 to 11 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. LenoxContraDance.org

Tuesdays, June 19 to July 21: Singing at the community center with Oren Rosenthal, 7:30 p.m. See page 12.

Monday, June 25: Adult book group. This month's book is *Auto Biography*, by Earl Swift. At the library, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 29: Special town meeting, 7 p.m., at town hall. See page 29.

Saturday, June 30:

Bidwell history talk: "The Sun Ever Shines on Them," 10 a.m. See page 20.

Outdoor yoga, 11 a.m., community center. See page 13.

Saturday, July 7:

Library summer program: Magician Jim Snack, 10:30 a.m. See page 10.

Bidwell Country Fair. Free. 1 to 4 p.m. See page 20.

Sunday, July 8:

Pittsfield Suns baseball game and picnic. See page 8.

Bidwell House: Open-Mic Music Festival. $10 per carload. 4:30 to 8:30 pm. See page 21.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to monterey-news9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Saturday, August 4: Bidwell House Museum summer gala party. See page 21.

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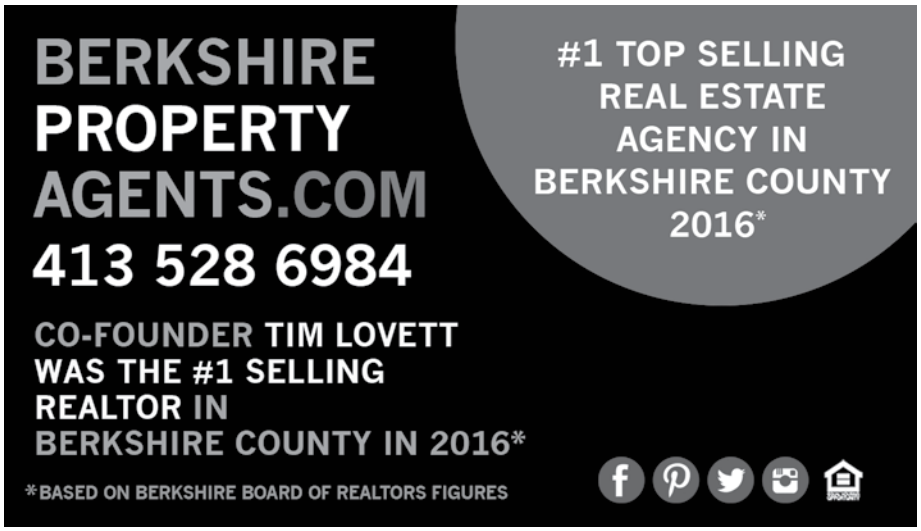

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pgs. 15, 25; George Emmons, p. 22;
Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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